Pollution on account of DESU's Fly Ash Pond in East Delhi

1170. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the photo report in the Hindustan Times of the 6th June, 1991 entitled "Darkness at noon" regarding pollution on account of fly ash from DESU fly ash pond near Nizamuddin bridge in East Delhi.

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that this incident coincided with the observance of the "International Environment Day";

(c) whether action has been initiated against DESU; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to initiate action against DESU for this hazardous pollution of the environment by the constant dispersal of fly ash discharged from its power house?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up the matter regarding management of fly ash in an environmentally sound manner with the DESU and Delhi Administration.

Increase in non-developmental expenditure in States

1171. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-developmental expenditure of States increased during the last year;

(b) if so, what is the extent of such increase; and

(c) what remedial steps are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The non-developmental expenditure of all States increased from Rs. 19,806.1 crores (Revised Estimate) in 1989-90 to Rs. 24,285.3 crores (Budget Estimate) in 1990-91 showing an increase of 22.61 per cent.

(c) In order to contain increase in non-developmental expenditure of the States the Planning Commission has been emphasising during the course of the discussions with the State Governments the need for reducing the growth of non-developmental expenditure and for taking suitable economy measures. However, it is for the State Governments to contain their increase in non-developmental expenditure by taking various economy measure. The steps reported to have been taken by some of the State Governments for reducing their growth in non-developmental expenditure include restriction on purchase of vehicles, control on petrol consumption, ban on creation of new posts, restriction of expenditure on telephones, etc.

Irregularities in the appointment of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of British India Corporation Limited

1172. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prescribed procedures for appointment of Chief Executive in Public Sector were not followed in appointing the present Chairman-cum-Managing Director of British India Corporation Limited; and

(b) if so, the date on which the approval of the Appointment Committee of Cabinet was received by his Ministry regarding the above appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The present Chairman - cum - Managing Director of British India Corporation Ltd., was appointed to his post after the then Appointments Committee of Cabinet's approval had been received, although Public Enterprises Selection Board was not consulted. The approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet was received on 5th May, 1991.

Sale of Indira Vikas Patra

1173. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of Indira Vikas Patra has come down drastically during 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to augment their sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dissatisfaction over functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner

1174. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all the national political parties have expressed their dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner, during the elections to the Lok Sabha;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action to streamline the working of the Election Commission to instil greater confidence among the political parties and the general public; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Certain political parties have expressed dissatisfaction over C.E.C.'s functioning.

(b) and (c) Certain electoral reforms pertaining to Election Commission are on the anvil which are contained in the Constitution (Seventeeth Amendment) Bill, 1990 and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which are pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha. However, in view of the happenings in the last general elections, a greater indepth study will also be undertaken for the purpose.

Steps proposed by Empowered Committee to tackle sickness in deep sea fishing industry

1175. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps proposed by the Empowered Committee Chaired by Finance Secretary to tackle sickness in deep sea fishing industry;

(b) what steps are being taken to supply fuel at international prices to trawler operators; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rationalise prices of oil for fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government, on the recommendation of the Empowered Committee, has announced a revised scheme for the rehabilitation of sick but viable deep sea fishing companies. A copy of the detailed parameters is enclosed.

(b) Government in the Ministry of Commerce have reported that they